

Marine Transport Workers I.U. 510

Industrial Workers of the World

Fellow Workers:

This comes to you at a dark time in maritime affairs. As you are no doubt aware, we in the seagoing and dockside industries are under unprecedented attack from employers, shippers, and governments with questionable agenda. Our business unions' history of job-raiding and under-cutting has not helped the worker, either. There is an urgent need for renewed communication and militant cooperation among all workers whose labor involves waterborne transportation, from ship to the cargo's final destination.

Fortunately, an organization exists which names this as its most immediate aim. We, as the IWW-510, Marine Transport Workers, have inherited the responsibility; or opportunity, to re-organize and re-vitalize our own Industrial Union, assist un-organized and forgotten marine workers, and most immediately, light a fire under our

established Unions to act with dispatch and militancy when dealing with ever-more-hostile employers.

Remembering that we can expect little from committees of elected or appointed millionaires, and realizing that help will not come from regulatory agencies or others who profit from our loss, we must prepare to stand bare-knuckled to defend our Unions, our lifestyles, and ourselves.

I am proposing a means of communication and a forum for maritime workers, namely an organ to be called (if agreed) the Wharf and Wave, after the San Francisco Wharf and Wave Committee of the early part of this century.

Our IU-510 must respect and draw from our combined histories, but we must work towards OUR future, considering the current situation, and forgetting generations-old beefs between groups or trades along the waterfront.

I am currently working in the SF Bay, after years of offshore sailing, and so I have the time and a stable location from which to act as delegate, or clearing-house, if such is acceptable. It is my feeling that the first step to our re-organization is to find out who we are, where we are, and as previously stated, establish lines of communication and support. There are current organizing efforts underway here, as you may know from reading about the Tug Sea Dive (Industrial Worker Jan.93). This can be the beginning of a revitalization of the 510 on all coasts, with efforts of members in all ports.

Please write or call. Those of us involved here and in the East need input and information to make the 510 live again. For the Seven Seas,

--Colin Dewey X340152

60 Walter St.

San Francisco CA 94114 USA
(415)864-6037

Diesel Mechanic on the Edward Abbey

by Kris Maenz

For long periods of time I have been the only woman on the boat. Sometimes it is difficult, I miss women. I have noticed that I am forgetting how to relate to females.

On the boat women are treated the same as men. I see very little inequality between men and women. Everyone must work hard, eat the same food and sleep in the same conditions. Everyone is subject to the same bad jokes and strange people that the boat attracts. Each person must decide for themselves how to deal with the inequalities of living in a hierarchy determined, not by sex, but by experience and knowledge. The boats are collections of individuals, all different but working together. All determined to save the oceans.

The Ocean...

Blue sky and blue water as far as the eye can see. An albatross flying behind the boat for days. A lonesomeness that makes you feel so small that you question the validity of your existence. The Ocean...

A beautiful and terrifying wilderness, unexplored and uncharted. On it we sit in a tin can riding the waves, trying to save a body of water we are in awe of.

I am part of the machine, I grease the cogs that turn the motor that rams the bastard fisherpeople. From morning till night then till morning, I live, eat, sleep machine. When I see them hauling in their death nets laden with squid, tuna, albatross, seals and other ocean creatures I am part of stopping them.

Hopefully the oceans will never seem small, for if they do we have lost a great magnificence. (Earth First Journal)

Environmentalism & the Maritime Industry

Arthur J. Miller

Just in the last few months there have been 3 major oil spills caused by tanker accidents. First was the Greek tanker *Aegean Sea* which crashed upon rocks near Coruna, Spain. Then a Liberian tanker went aground off the Shetland Islands. And little over a week later a loaded tanker collided with an empty tanker in the Malacca Strait which separates Malaysia and Indonesia. In each case millions of gallons of oil was spilled in what the capitalist press called "accidents." These were not accidents, they were the direct result of capitalist greed: maximum profit with minimum expense.

Add these 3 to the long list of major spills: The *Torrey Canyon* grounded off Land's End, England (119,000 tons spilled), the *Othello* in collision in Tralhavet Bay, Sweden (100,000 tons spilled), the *Sea Star* involved in a collision in the Gulf of Oman (115,000 tons spilled), the *Urquiola* ran aground near La Coruna, Spain (100,000 tons spilled), fire aboard the *Hawaiian Patriot* in the northern Pacific (99,000 tons spilled), the *Amoco Cadiz* ran aground off northwest France (223,000 tons spilled), the *Atlantic Empress* and the *Aegean Captain* collide off Trinidad (300,000 tons spilled), fire aboard the *Castillo de Bellver* off Cape Town, South Africa (250,000 tons spilled), the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Prince William Sound of Alaska (11 million gallons spilled). The list of smaller spills is almost endless.

In every case these spills could have been prevented. Do not buy the lies of educated fools, who first claim that these ships are safe, and then when there's an "accident," blame it on some worker. They will always say that "everything that can be done is being done," and then say "the accident is being looked into so that it will not happen again." These are just lies to cover up corporate crime. I tell you for a fact that everything that can be done is NOT being done, and nothing is being looked into except increased profits.

I know this is the truth, for I have worked on ships for 20 years in both new construction and repair. There is no part of a tanker I have not worked in. I helped build a sister ship to the *Valdez*, at National Steel & Shipbuilding.

I can tell you that no ship that sails is built to be earth-safe. I can also tell you that earth-safe ships can be built and maintained. The following is precisely how to do it.

1. First, tankers should be built with double hulls. If tankers had double bottoms and wing tanks with forced ventilation (because tanks leak and the fumes from the oil leaked into the double bottom can turn it into a bomb, without forced ventilation) then rupturing a tank would be a lot more difficult. And the double hull would

give the ship added strength to help prevent it from breaking up if it did run aground.

2. When a tank is ruptured the oil has nowhere to go but into the ocean. All tankers should run with one empty tank and a pumping system, where the oil from a ruptured tank can be pumped into the empty tank. Also, most double bottoms have pumping systems which is used for ballast; with a little more pipe and a few valves, in an emergency oil could be pumped into the double bottom. Also if the oil tank and the double bottom are both ruptured, the same pumping system can pump the oil out to an empty tank before it reaches the ocean. Each tank is separated, and each double bottom and wing tank is also separated.

3. Tanks should be made smaller. Most tanks on oil tankers are 80 feet by 80 feet by 80 feet; some are even larger. Smaller tanks mean less oil to deal with in a rupture. When a tanker runs aground in high seas the stress often causes the tanker to break up. With smaller tanks the ship's structure is stronger.

4. Super tankers should not be allowed. They are so long that just the stress of sailing the high seas can cause cracks in the hull.

5. Tankers should carry oil containment equipment on them. By this I mean enough booms to circle the ship two times, and two small boats to set the booms. The main reason oil slicks get large is that by the time oil containment equipment gets to a spill it is often too late.

6. All ships should be equipped with proper sonar, radar, and warning beacons. No ship should ever run into another ship, nor ever run aground.

7. All coastlines, rocks, islands and what-not should have warning beacons; also warning buoys which set off an alarm on a ship before it goes into dangerous waters.

8. Special pilots should go on board to take ships into inlets, rivers, sounds and other such places -- when a ship goes up the Mississippi river, a special pilot boards at the mouth of the river.

9. No ship should be forced to sail in excessively bad weather. There are times when it's unavoidable because the bad weather is not known about until it is too late. But for the most part the weather is known. Because the shipping boss wants to meet a schedule they will

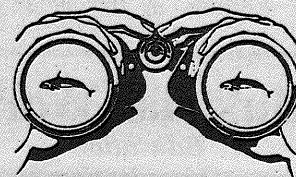
risk the ship, the workers on it and the environment.

10. No ships should carry excessive amounts of fuel. The more fuel a ship carries, the more it will spill. Fishing ships are the worst about this. One went down off the coast of Washington and its fuel fouled beaches from Vancouver Island to northern Oregon. Many of these ships carry enough fuel to sail months at a time. There is no need of this, they can pull into port and refuel.

11. Ships' crews should not be forced to work more than 8 hours. Fatigue always makes a dangerous work environment. There are many who mistakenly think that the 8-hour day was won long ago in the US. It has never been won in the transportation industry. Maritime, truck drivers, railroad and airline workers are all pushed far beyond the safe limits. Then when something happens the bosses blame it on the workers. On ships, the most I was ever forced to work was 21 hours in one day; the most in a week was 96 hours, and the longest I ever went without a day off was three and a half months. I have gotten so tired on the job that I fell asleep turning wrenches.

12. All ships should have experienced crews and repair workers should also be experienced. First this means good pay. If you pay your workers chicken feed then you will have a high turnover of workers. It means reasonable paid time off -- burnout is another reason for high turnover and poor work. It means putting an end to "flags of convenience." On paper, Liberia has the biggest merchant marine in the world. This is because they let the maritime bosses flag ships there to avoid unions, safety standards, environmental protection, and inspections. The bosses find workers from different parts of the world who are forced to work for low wages and bad conditions, and they can sail these Liberian-registered ships far longer than they should, with fewer repairs. The same happens in ship construction and repair. The maritime bosses will find the country with the lowest wages, fewest safety and environment standards to get their work done.

13. All ships should be built with the highest safety and environmental standards. To cut costs and to meet deadlines, corners are cut. And when a



worker is forced to do bad work, there is nowhere to report it without losing their job.

14. Repair and maintenance should not be put off to meet schedules or make it back to their repair port. Many ships sail back and forth from the same ports. Ships should be inspected and repaired in both ports.

15. All fuel tanks should be above the waterline, protected by a surrounding, ventilated void, and at a good distance from the engine room.

16. All lines for flammable liquids should have accessible, triple-valve protection. All other tanks should have double-valve protection. All overboards below the waterline should have triple-valve protection.

17. No ship should discharge sewage, bilge water, ballast water or any other hazardous liquids into the water. All ships should have holding tanks for this and each port should have facilities.

18. Eliminate customs laws that force ships to dump at sea.

19. All ships should be made to keep engine rooms, uptakes and unused tanks clean and free of grease. I was in one ship fire that started in a grease-filled ventilation uptake at the bottom level of the engine room and in less than ten minutes there was fire leaping ten feet out the smokestack. We only made it out because the fire doors did not work. On some ships fire doors close automatically, sometimes trapping workers inside.

I am not a scientist. I cannot tell you how much pollution the oceans can take. I am just a radical environmentalist worker who does not trust the "experts" and believes that oceans can be damaged and should not have to take any human pollution. The above steps to earth-safe ships would greatly increase the safety of workers and the environment, but I am a realist; worker and environmental safety will not be a goal of society until we put an end to production for profit and change industry to the production of well-being for all -- including Mother Earth.

Letters

Greetings all,

Many of you have heard rumours of an Australian Wobbly at large in the US. Well, it's true I've been travelling across the continent since the Assembly last September, calling in on a host of people from the frozen plains of Winnipeg to New Orleans in the frost-free swamps of the South. Everyone has been more than hospitable and I want to take this chance to once again thank everyone who put me up or put up with me. Well you all hear plenty about LV, Frisco & Northern California but I'll give a quick view on the smaller but not insignificant groups in between.

After calling in on "Wobble In" and getting a sardine can on wheels to traverse the land; I made a line for Ottawa and spent 2 weeks learning the laws of labour, giving a hand with the collective on December's IW, and avoiding the parking cops. Scraping the first snow fall of the year off the vehicle I set sail for Winnipeg, back via Ann Arbor and Chicago.

The city of Winnipeg doesn't jump out of the plains at you but the locals are a lively, easy going, hard fighting bunch, when they're not chasing bus loads of scabs around town, partying long into the night or printing up info to help workers with their problems, they're avoiding the hellish cold and planning for the Spring thaw when they can get back on the picket lines.

Finally not being able to take the cold or cabin fever set off for a more southern, if not much warmer, scene in Denver, where the locals I see are putting in a page for the IW, so I'll pass on to Salt Lake City and the group yes people, group, of Wobs are making a foot hold in Mountain of Oppression -- hopefully we'll be hearing about some of their exploits in the near future.

Skipping on down past SF to LA, where Andrew & Rob and the sparse group in a dense city are looking to get a book store and Wobbly office up and running and planning for the annual Bisbee deportation memorial.

Well it's a long hop, skip, and jump across Arizona, New Mexico & Texas (where 85-year-old Gilbert Mers, a true gentleman & scholar, is holding the fort) to New Orleans, a unique group in a unique city who get together to play kick-ball once a week and talk shop -- definitely a different approach to the old cause. Unfortunately I missed seeing the folks in Atlanta GA, apologies one & all and I only got a couple of hours with the people at Harbinger Press, South Carolina, now into their 14th year and going strong, but I couldn't get to everyone.

As I write from Philly the new GEB is settling in, the IW is coming out on a truly international line with the rise of our fellow workers in Melbourne and I hope to be able to send some news on Europe when I get there. A short and sweet report that I hope encourages anyone who thinks they are alone to look up and see their comrades are closer than they seem. Take it easy but take it all.

--Ray, Delegate for the World at large

Industrial Worker,

I just read about the Bingo Workers in the December 1992 issue and was very impressed by the details of their fight. Something similar seems to be happening up here where a group of high school kids are hired to run the bingos for the Metis Association. The kids do 6 nights of 4 hours with 6 people there, for a total of \$800. However they are deducted \$100 on one night for having only 5 people show up like they were told, rather than the 7 people the bosses somehow expected they have... in the end it is a really raw

deal that might be a highly illegal situation, because I believe that only non-profit charities can have bingos and that is always done as a cut rather than an employment situation.

I would be very interested in hearing more about the Pennsylvania Bingo Workers struggle... It could provide us with some useful ideas as well as a practical real-life lesson for the kids in how power and politics actually work -- a lesson in class awareness.

Also please send info on how one may get a donation to the Bingo Workers. Thank you. Keep up the struggle,

--Brent Flesher
North West Territory
Canada

Fellow Workers,

I've been a member of the IWW for a year and a half, and have since joining tried to bring IWW influence to bear upon all my political activism. I am a student of economics and labor studies at Laney College in SF's sister city of Oakland, and those are two cases in point of the aforementioned political activism. I am a member of the student (education workers division) of the IWW, but am also a casual-temp worker. Thank you for your article on the organization of temp workers, and the New Year's International Solidarity issue. I occasionally work at the SF office. In Solidarity Forever,

--Geoffrey Marx Houston

To the Editor:

Lately I can't help but notice all of the attention being paid to the supposed "post-boomer" generation. These people between their early 20's and early 30's have been referred to as neo-boomers, generation X, post-boomers, the lost generation, and many other names all no doubt created by

individuals who are not members of this group. Well, as a member of "generation X," I'd like to enlighten you with some information that I believe will give everyone a necessary, but previously ignored, perspective.

The generation that made a noble yet failed attempt at raising us, has now taken on the task of labelling us. They so graciously gave us a huge national debt, ethnocentric attitudes, and a depleting environment, and now they're calling us lost.

My generation consists of a beautiful variety of individuals. We're the most intelligent, conscious, aware, compassionate, and creative people to hit this earth as of yet. You cannot categorize us. You cannot label us. The moment you can is the moment we get thrown down into the same stale level of the new found yuppies who gave up their goals for societal success. How dare these hypocritical sellouts pass judgement upon us in the same fashion that judgement was passed on them 25 years ago? Well, don't count on my generation selling out. Count on it taking this world in a more positive direction than its ever gone before. It's time for the generation that will be asking us to take care of them in 15 years to start acknowledging this realization.

--Jamie McMurphy, Student
Seattle, WA

Dear Supporters,

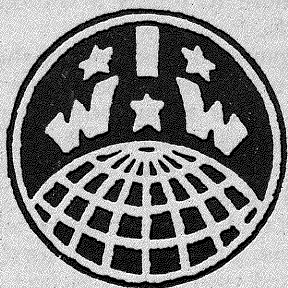
17 years is far too long for an innocent man to be in prison. This request comes to you in an urgent call for a letter writing campaign to President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton. (1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20500).

If we expect justice to be done, we

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Industrial Worker

Education
Organization
Emancipation



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IWW Directory

Job Shop: IWW organized workplace. GMB: General Membership Branch. Group: IWW members in the same locale. IU: Industrial Union. Delegate: member who collects dues and signs up new members.

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Jura Books -110 Crystal St, Petersham, Sydney, NSW

Sydney Area Group -Del: Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

VICTORIA

Melbourne Area Group - PO Box 1738Q GPO, Melbourne, Victoria 3001.

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SE BC Group-POB 54, Balfour,V0G 1C0. Contact: David Everest 604/229-4978

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB - B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Blackbird Design IU450 Job Shop- 394 Euclid Ave #301, Toronto M6G 2S9 416/972-6293

Kingston Group -472 Albert St. K7L 3W3 613/544-2382.Dl:BradWaugh613/549-6094

Ottawa Group-POB 4217 Stn E, K1S 5B2. 613/231-2922

Toronto Group-11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meetings 1st Thurs. of month 7 pm; phone for location.

UNITED KINGDOM

Leicester Del: F.Lee 22 Vicarage Lane Belgrave, LE4 5PD. 053/366-1835

Swindon Contact: Kevin Brandstatter 9 Omdurman St. Swindon,Wilts SN2 1HA

York -Delegate: D.Czunys, 13 Wolsley,York YO15BQ.

UNITED STATES CALIFORNIA

Berkeley:

Berkeley Recycling Ctr IU670 Job Shop - M. Carlstrom 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607

New Earth Press IU450 Job Shop- 1640 Addison, 94702. Delegate: Dave Karoly 510/549-0176.

UCB Recyclers Industrial Union 620 Branch-620 Eshleman, 94720. Delegate: Daniel Widener.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino-Humboldt GMB-Delegates:Melissa Roberts, POB 2805 Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/964-8164); Judi Bari, POB 656 Willits 95490(msg:707/468-1660); Herb Jager 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437 (707/937-3457).

Greater Los Angeles GMB -Delegate: Andrew Willett, 1355 Hilda #5, Glendale CA 91205

Riverside Group-Delegate:Kathy Light

714/369-9799

Sacramento- Time Tested Books IU660- 1114 21st St, 95814. 916/447-5696

San Diego Group - RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Pkwy #211, El Cajon 92020. 619/460-2907

San Francisco:

SF Bay Area GMB - 1095 Market St. #204, 94103. 415/863-WOBS

Typesetting Etc. IU450 Job Shop - 1095 Market St. #210, 94103

West Coast Marine Transport Workers IU510 Delegate: Colin Dewey 60 Walter St., 94114. 415/864-6037.

Santa Cruz GMB-PO Box 534, 95061.

COLORADO

Denver:

Denver/Boulder GMB-2412 E. Colfax, 80206 (303/388-1065) Office hrs Sat.9-12.

Meetings 1st Thur.@month 7 pm Del:Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E 8th Ave #202, 80218 (303/832-7602). Brendan Ruiz,PO Box 370663, 80237-0663.

P&L Printing IU450 Job Shop- 2298 Clay, 80211. 303/433-1852

FLORIDA

Delegate: J. Lewis, 345 Ocean Dr. #1103, Miami Beach 33139

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group - 340 Elmira Pl, 30307. 404/524-1243

HAWAII

Honolulu Group- Del: D. Goldsmith Box 469 University Sta. 96822

IDAHO

Boise Group - Delegate: W. Cohan, PO Box 822, Caldwell ID 83606.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB -New World Resource Ctr 1476 Irving Park, 60613. 312/549-5045. Meetings, 1st Friday 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Group- R. McCarthy, PO Box 15734, 70175-5734. 504/899-0014

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB -R.Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060. 301/367-3024

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Tenants Union IU670 Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

SE Mich. GMB- Delegates:Albert Parsons 313/769-0695; Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn 48126. 313/581-2065

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/St. Paul Group - Box 2391, Loop Stn, 55402. 612/339-5002

Duluth Group - 1514 N. 8th Ave. E, 55805. Delegate: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group-C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515

MONTANA

Butte- Contact: Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz, 59701. 406/782-4465

NEVADA

Tahoe Group - Larry Steinberg, PO Box 1114, Dayton 89403. 702/246-3120

NEW JERSEY

Paterson Group-PO Box 8532,Haledon NJ 07508. Del: Matt Bolton 201/790-3076

NEW YORK

Central NY Group-POBox 762, Cortland 13045

NY GMB-Delegates: Brian Mahoney 1717 N.Thompson Dr, Bay Shore NY 11706 (516/586-2103); Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348.(607/293-6489)

Socialist Party USA Natl Office IU670 Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 2 1 2 / 6 9 1 - 0 7 7 6

PENNSYLVANIA

Boulevard Bingo IU630 Job Shop- Delegate: Tina Gaffney 215/821-5622.

Lehigh Valley GMB-POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018. Tel:215/253-5057. Delegates:Jeff Kelly 215/866-5728; Mike D'Amore 215/434-0218.

Reading Group-PO Box 8468, 19603. Delegates:Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487

Philadelphia:

Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. (215)747-0855.

Temple University IWW Group-2106 N. Broad St. 19122. Contact: Francesco Zampetti (215) 765-3511.

Wooden Shoe Books & Records IU660 Job Shop - 112 S. 20th St, Philadelphia 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Harbinger Publications IU450 Job Shop- Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Austin Group - PO Box 49523, 78765. 512/416-9619

UTAH

Salt Lake Group - Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group-Anne Petermann, Orin Langelie POBox 804, 05402. 802/658-2403

WASHINGTON

Seattle Group-POB 20402, Seattle 98102. 206/367-0477. Delegate: Stan Anderson.

Street of Crocodiles Letter Press IU450 Job Shop- PO Box 20610, Seattle 98102. 206/726-5924

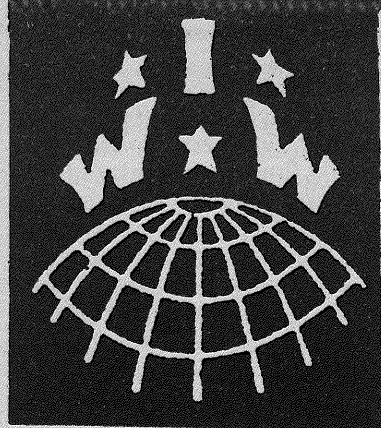
WEST VIRGINIA

Delegate: Rick Wilson, 1019 2nd St.W. Huntington WV 25701

WISCONSIN

Lakeside Press IU450 Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. 608/255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow

Madison GMB-Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow



Around the Union

British IWW Actions

3 members attended a march in support of the Swindon miners in December. The weather was terrible and this kept the numbers down to about 150. The IWW banner was one of only 3 on the march and it attracted some attention. Some Little Red Songbooks and Industrial Workers were distributed.

Members were to attend a Rally in Cheltenham in support of sacked union members formerly employed at GCHQ. The organisation of a coach, to take demonstrators from Swindon to Cheltenham, is being done by the IWW, but is financed by the Council of Civil Service Unions.

A Glastonbury FW is spreading the word of the IWW far and wide among fellow members of Earth First! A demonstration is planned Feb.29 to oppose ICI's continued pollution of the River Mersey. Most of the lower paid workers, who have the power to stop the pollution at its source, live almost under the nose of the plant.

from *Bread 'n Roses, Internal Bulletin of the British Section IWW* - Jan.93

Chicago IWW presents

Kathleen Taylor
POETRY & SONG
Carlos Cortez

Saturday March 20 7:30 pm
Random Worlds Cafe
1935 W.Division, one block east of Damen
\$5 at door
for info or copyright: IWW leave a message at 312-549-9541
IWW logo

IWW Publications Branch News--

Wildcat, Monthly Bulletin of the Bay Area Wobblies (North America's Revolutionary Union) -- PO Box 40485, San Francisco CA 94140.

Lehigh Valley IWW Branch Bulletin -- PO Box 1433, Bethlehem PA 18018

Action! -- Bulletin of the Santa Cruz GMB, IWW -- PO Box 534, Santa Cruz CA 95061.

Bread 'n Roses -- Internal Bulletin of the British Section IWW -- Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman St. Swindon, Wilts, UK, SN3 6NE.

Industrial Union News--

Buskers Rag, Newsletter of Entertainment Workers IU630 Committee, IWW -- PO Box 1400, Brewster MA 02631.

Newsletter of Education Workers IU620, IWW -- PO Box 762, Cortland NY 13045.

Wharf & Wave -- News of Maritime Transport Workers IU510, IWW -- 60 Walter St. San Francisco CA 94114.

Letters continued from page 2

must make a concerted effort that will clearly demonstrate that there are literally millions of people willing to fight for Leonard's freedom.

Thank you for your continuing concern and support.

--Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
PO Box 583
Lawrence KS 66044

San Francisco Bay Area Wobblies FIRE YOUR BOSS Workshop

The 5 Most Commonly Asked Questions in an Organizing Drive

(Below you will find some questions which come up frequently in union organizing drives. Some brief answers are provided to some very complicated questions. Remember the information given here is of a very general nature and will vary with the facts of the individual situation.)

1. **Can the boss prohibit the workers from talking union on the job or posting union literature on the company bulletin board?**

Generally, the boss cannot discriminate against what you say to each other while at work, or what you post on company bulletin boards. If you are allowed to chat with fellow workers while on the job, then you are allowed to chat about union organizing. However, as with talking about anything when working, if your chatting gets in the way of your doing what you are paid to do, the boss can prohibit it.

2. **When do we come out in the open about our organizing, as opposed to talking secretly behind the boss's back?**

This is always a complicated strategy question. However, one thing is clear. If you are secretive in your organizing activities on the job, and you take pains to hide your concerted activities from the boss, and then the boss fires you, you have a much harder time proving you were fired for union activity. So in the beginning, when you are unsure about your support, it is better to be careful and selective. But later, there is almost certainly a point when for your own protection, you want to come out and get in the boss's face.

3. **Do we need to be affiliated with an existing union, can we form our own, or should we join the IWW?**

You do not need to organize with an existing union in order to be recognized by the employer and/or the law. You may form your own XYZ Workers' Association, and be just as legally valid as a "regular" union. There are advantages and disadvantages to affiliating with larger, established unions. These depend on the particular union, and what it is prepared to offer you in terms of support. Of course, the best union to join is the IWW for all the reasons you already know.

4. **What about the National Labor Relations Board?**

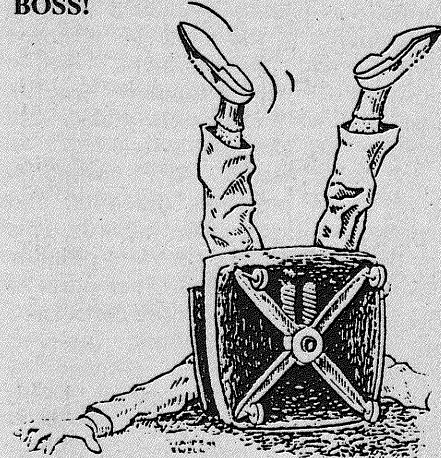
Due to the way labor laws have evolved in the USA, and the interests

this body of law serves, once you begin organizing, the NLRB will undoubtedly stick its nose in your business. This happens in a variety of ways, sometimes with the instigation of the employer, sometimes because the workers call them in. Generally the NLRB will only serve to distract your organizing energy, and make work for lawyers. It is to be avoided if possible, but it is probably not possible. As distasteful as it may be to all involved, it will probably be to your advantage to cooperate with them.

5. **Can I get fired for organizing?**

Yes! Will it be legal? Not if the employer's dominant motive is to stop your organizing activity. How do you prove it? Stick together; protect each other; be witnesses for each other; keep records of conversations and events; keep all documents; be smart; do your job better than you've ever done it before; learn the law & use it.

Now that you know everything there is to know about organizing and the law, it's time to spread the word, convince all fellow workers of the benefits of worker control of the means of production, and... **FIRE YOUR BOSS!**



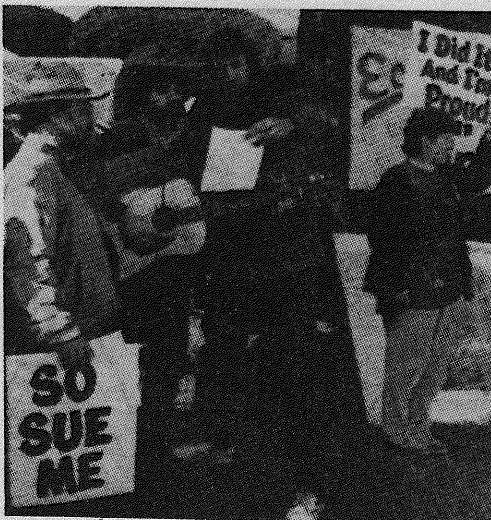
Organizer's Preliminary Worksheet

The following can be used as a guideline for gathering information from disgruntled workers about prospective IWW organizing drives.

- Names, addresses & phone numbers of workers:
- Occupation:
- Name & address of Workplace:
- Type of business:
- Part of a chain or conglomerate:
- Who owns the business:
- General manager:
- Immediate supervisor:
- Total number of employees:
- Does the prospective bargaining unit (the group to be represented by the Union) include all employees, or is it limited to a smaller group of specific workers:
- What languages are spoken at work:
- What are the main gripes (wages, work conditions, abuse of power, health & safety?):
- What would be your minimum demands:
- How many of the workers (what percentage?) would be receptive to some sort of organizing drive:
- How many are gung-ho and ready for action?
- Is secrecy important?
- Are there any known finks/class traitors? (name & position):
- What kinds of direct action would be most effective in this workplace? (How does the business make most of its money? Where is it most vulnerable?):
- What kinds of direct action have already been tried:
- Have any other Unions already been contacted:
- Do the workers understand the difference between business unions and the Wobblies? If not, explain the concept of a do-it-yourself Union (autonomous decision-making, direct action emphasis):
- How can the Wobblies help (literature, speakers, picketers, negotiators, lawyers, press contacts, money)?
- What other contacts have they made in their industry, or with other outlets of the same company?
- What is the prevailing workplace "culture" (mainstream, counter-culture, ethnic, mixed)?

So SLAPP Me!

L-P has sued Albion Uprising demonstrators, and issued a legal order demanding that 8 activists name all the other participants in last summer's direct action campaign to save the forest. 75 activists attended a Dec.18 rally at Ukiah County Courthouse, where many publicly admitted to trespassing, tree-sitting, road blockading and doing everything possible to support the forest -- including the "thought crime" of supporting the Uprising. (*Earth First! Journal*)



Darryl Cherney confessing his sins to L-P at Ukiah County Courthouse in Ecotopia, California. (photo: Randy Ghent)

Northern IWW T-Shirts



New T-Shirts! \$13 each postpaid.
100% cotton. Large size only.
Red & Black on white (unbleached)
Black & White on red
White & Red on black
Orders To: Northwork Info Association
PO Box 4217, Stn E Ottawa ON K1S 5B2 Canada.



Temp Workers Union

The Temporary Workers Union will open its office March 1, at Room 216, 1095 Market St. San Francisco, right down the hall from IWW General Head-quarters. Under the name Progressive Temps, the union office will function as a hiring hall & employment agency. By cutting out the middle capitalists, TWU hopes to provide its worker-members with higher pay at a lower cost to employers.

TWU is an independent union organized by both IWW members and non-members. Members are welcome to join the IWW, but such membership is not necessary to be in the TWU and be sent out for temporary work.

Women of Freethought

We are collecting the writings, portraits and biographies of women free-thinkers. Freethinking women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Emma Goldman are well known. We want information on women who were not so famous, who held the Free-thought banner high where they lived. We would appreciate hearing of such women, their books, journals, newspapers, memoirs or other publications. Photos are also important, to document the life and times of our courageous ancestors. Please contact us at: Elizabeth Gerber & Fred Whitehead, 12406 Cherry, Kansas City MO 64145.

International

世界团结

...Notes

ASIA - Toxic Wastes: As industrialization spreads across Asia, waste and toxic hazards accumulate at a disturbing rate and pose a major threat... irresponsible governments eagerly welcome polluting industries for short-term gains. Government leadership -- using shrewd divide-and-rule tactics with Third World nationalist sentiments as a crutch -- shortsightedly attempt to weaken the environment lobby by making extravagant allegations that it is not only misguided, but somehow a puppet of Western pressure groups...

TNC exploitation of developing countries is usually embraced by host governments in the name of "national interest and development," while questions of who ultimately benefits most, and who ultimately makes any sacrifices, are carefully avoided.

In Bukit Merah, ARE company-based union members defended the company position on toxic hazards. This may be a reflection of the state of labor activism in Malaysia and other parts of Asia; workers are often more concerned with immediate economic interest, understandably in the context of common economic hardship. More significantly, the willingness of ARE employees, or a large section of the Malaysia public for that matter, to support the company reflects the depth and influence of the so-called "development myth."

This leads to important questions facing workers and labor organizers:

How do workers position themselves as part of a wider social movement? Should workers' prime concerns be essentially economic? What is their role in environmental issues, gender, culture, race and human rights? These are imminent problems that labor groups in Asia must respond to.

If such questions are deferred, Asian countries may repeat mistakes in national and economic development that have left a legacy of environmental and cultural damage scarring many developed countries, aggravated by rampant consumerism, an unprincipled get-rich-quick mentality and excessive individualism. Asian governments today are dashing headlong into similar circumstances.

To ensure more appropriate and sustainable development, Asian nations must develop a process of people's



participation and control over all levels of national development. This process must go hand-in-hand with a democratic political framework in which freedom of association and expression are enshrined. (excerpted from Asian Labour Update #9, on radioactive waste storage in Malaysia.)

Meanwhile, The International Federation of Chemical and Energy Workers (ICEF) is protesting efforts of a Nigerian firm, Nation Wide Consult Ltd., which is inviting foreign companies to export their illegal waste in containers marked "edible oil." Nation Wide promises shipments of dangerous substances can be offloaded at a small private port, and land for storage will be made available.

"The workers and their trade unions

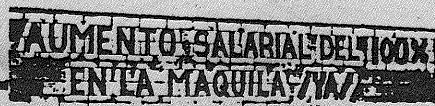
-- must be especially vigilant against abuses of the law on toxic waste. After all, it is highly unlikely to be the Company Director who will pack the waste and then falsely and illegally mis-label it. Nor will it be Chief Executive Officer who will unload and dispose of the mis-labelled waste. It is much more likely that workers will be cajoled into participating in this dangerous fraud. These workers will come under the usual pressures to "play the game" or risk losing their jobs -- nothing short of blackmail."

INDONESIA State Unions:

There were 177 strikes involving nearly 90,000 workers in 1992 because of poor working conditions tolerated by the state-sponsored All Indonesian Workers Association (SPSI). Employers regularly violate minimum wages and health standards. Strikes are often settled by force. *Jakarta Post* quotes a human rights worker as saying strikes will continue despite a recent decree banning them, "Workers are striking because they can no longer live on their wages." Although security police have stopped arresting strikers, major workplaces now have a permanent police presence and security police are participating in negotiations.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prisoners: 4 members of South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union were handed prison terms of 7-15 years Feb.4, on charges they petrol-bombed supermarkets, clothing stores and private homes in the Transkei in a 1991 strike. Bongiwe Macingwane, 30, Malungisa Makiki, 29, Nosipho Mjoli, 23, and Sydney Nqodi, 39, were convicted of 9 counts of arson, attempted murder and malicious damage to property. After the sentencing, nearly 200 people in solidarity with SACCWU went to one of the stores involved, where a clash with police ensued.



GUATEMALA - Coca-Cola

Fires Union Activists: 29 workers at a bottling plant in Puerto Barrios have been illegally fired for trying to form a union. Workers began organizing the plant in early December, seeking an increase in their \$70-a-month wage, job security and health & safety. Union members ask for international solidarity to support their right to form a union.

Please urge the manager to reinstate the fired workers, to respect workers' right to form a union and cease reprisals against union members: Carlos Alfredo Barascout Cabrera Manager, *Empress Alimentos y Bebidas Atlantida, S.A. (Coca Cola)*; 4a Avenida entre 11 and 12 Calles, No. 114, Puerto Barrios, Izabal, Guatemala. Send a copy to UNSITRAGUA at 11 Calle 8-14, Zona 1, Edificio Tecun, Oficina 34, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

CUBA Unionist Still in Jail:

Rafael Gutierrez, president of Cuba's independent trade union, the USTC, was arrested in Havana February 6 and is now being held at state security headquarters, Villa Marista. His arrest is linked to the establishment Feb. 5, of a national commission of independent trade unions, a merger of 4 existing independent trade union groupings in Cuba.

COLOMBIA Unionists Bombed:

12 people died Feb.10 when a bomb exploded near the headquarters of the oilworkers' union, USO, as it was in negotiations with the state oil company Ecopetrol. The murder of Luis Lombana, a worker at Ecopetrol, last month brought to 51 the number of USO members killed in the past 5 years.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

General Strike: Tens of thousands of workers joined a Feb. 3 general strike against the government, while workers who did show up conducted slow-downs. Water supplies were cut to most gov't offices.

RUSSIA Emerald

Miners Sit-In: 250 emerald miners at Malyshevskoe mine (Sverlovsk) occupied the mine Jan. 15, demanding increased wages and the granting of independence to the mine.

Alternatives to Privatization: St. Petersburg's "For Workers' Property and Industrial Democracy," aims to set up associations of workplace collectives which own their enterprises. 100 people took part in a Jan. conference of 50 enterprises and scientific institutes. Participants agreed that privatization does not create a stratum of working owners, but leads to corruptible managers having a monopoly of power, and turns working people into employees of entrepreneurs. They hope to transform businesses into collective property of the workers.

Unionist Beaten: On Jan. 22, V.E. Kostilevsky, Chairperson of Union of Kogalym Workers, was viciously beaten. UKW opposes creation of a Russian-Canadian company "Luk-Oil," arguing its oil and gas extraction will devastate the environment. Oil industry workers struck last year to demand that these be halted, but their union was dissolved by the courts. Workers then joined the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Russia. In response, the company sacked Russian and Ukrainian workers and brought in unemployed Canadian oil workers. Kostilevsky is now in a serious condition with head injuries, broken ribs, and liver damage.

BELARUS Mass Firings: Workers from Gomelmash plant's Union for the Defence of Human Rights and the Union of the Unemployed picketed City Council Jan.5, carrying placards such as: "Unemployment -- genocide by the state against the people!" They demand an end to mass dismissals. Management is firing workers to reduce the numbers eligible to "benefit" from the privatization.

KAZAKHSTAN Socialist Union-Busting: Authorities are trying to

destroy the Independent Union of Mineworkers (NPG), via prosecution for 1992 strikes. KAS-KOR *News Digest* reports the union was promised immunity as part of the strike settlement. "So we now have a sound legal basis for renewing strike action... We're going to bring an action against the management for failure to pay wages, because this was the real reason for the strikes."

Multinationals Ravage

Europe: The European Metalworkers' Federation has blasted US-based manufacturer Hoover for "exploiting the present economic recession to undermine the position of trade unions in France and Britain." Hoover has announced plans to transfer production at its plant in Dijon, France, to Scotland.

Leyland-DAF, formed by a merger of British and Dutch firms, announced 1,600 layoffs Feb. 12. Jim Hamill of the international business unit at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland says this is the first salvo of multinational labor wars set to rage across Europe.

An unprecedented number of cross-border acquisitions between 1985 and 1991 raises the specter of mass layoffs and multinational labor crises as merged firms try to rationalize their business. "When you get two big companies operating in the same industry, you don't need two sales offices, you don't need a large number of plants, you concentrate production." Nestle, which recently acquired British confectioners Rowntree, plans to close one of its Glasgow plants as well as rationalize its production in Newcastle and Dijon. The promise of a single European market spurs such cross-border mergers.

MEXICO - Auto Workers:

Auto Parts Workers from Canada, USA, and Mexico met in February in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas. US and Canadian workers

travelled to Mexico to learn how Mexican workers are organizing their unions and because they feel threatened by job loss, weakening unions at home, and by the North American Free Trade Agreement. The Mexican workers look north for help in their struggle against low wages, unsafe work conditions, and repression of police in the maquiladora region. Mexican workers are attempting to organize independent worker run unions. Canadian and US workers were called upon to aid the Mexican workers by applying pressure to the big 3 automakers, GM, Ford and Chrysler.

Tom Laney, UAW Local 879 says that Mexican workers are 20 years ahead of US unions in their organizing methods. Mexican organizer Luis Fong said that a broad based, flexible, and organic union could deal with the rapidly changing and plastic corporations. He called upon US and Canadian workers to re-organize their unions from the shop floor, and think critically about corporate and government activity.

CAW/TCA's Jerry Gilligan says Mexican workers are not stealing northern jobs, rather "capitalist bastards" have been playing workers in the 3 countries against one another. Proposals ranged from exchanging info to a 1-day work stoppage in all 3 countries. (Eric Key/nytransfer)

AUSTRALIA - Trouble Every

Day: Since the Nov. 10 General Strike there have been a series of 1-day actions by most unions. 95% of all Public Transport stopped Nov. 20th (the taxis thought it was Christmas!). Nov.30 the federal Aus. Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) called for protests. Industries like mining and waterside workers were solid. As were metal workers who are going for a pay increase; not just to hold what they've got or protest the government's anti-union laws.

The Aus Services Union (Social and Community) or "SACs" have been pushing for One, two, many November 10ths. Another remarkable lot are the

State Council of Train Drivers who unanimously voted to demand the organization of an indefinite General Strike.

The Pacific Dunlop tyre factory & Copper Art import distributors, whose workers applied to get onto Federal Awards, has turned into a lockout with police and pickets clashing, as scabs suck up to bosses.

A series of actions by textile workers was launched after they were given the boot without redundancy pay.. Bankruptcy liquidators and tax collectors moved in to auction the factories etc. Angry workers stopped the auction and occupied the Tax Dept until evicted by "private security" thugs.

Education Workers

Dec.13 a Parents rally in support of state schools was held and the IWW banner joined the march through the city. 65 schools have closed including one where 70 Koorie aboriginal kids plan the curriculum with teachers, parents and community. Several schools have been occupied to prevent them being vandalized and closed by the State. Student activists protested at the exclusive Scotch College, where both government and opposition leaders send their own children. The principal of Scotch was not impressed and would not enroll the "Koorie" kids and had the police called.

98 Day Vigil After 98 days, 24 hours a day protesting with placards, banners, petitions, and leaflets the Democracy Vigil on the steps of Victoria Parliament was attacked by police at 5:30 am. on Feb.17. News of the eviction was spread by community radio 3CR as well as the Vigil's own network, and protesters returned for a street party with theatre and musicians.

EarthFirst! Members of EF! Melbourne distributed publicity calling for protests to free Leonard Peltier the American Indian Movement activist framed and in jail for 14 years.

March 1 Protests A Victoria-wide "voluntary" work stoppage and protest day.

EXTRA! THE WAGE SLAVE IS STILL ALIVE!

WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS

TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

APRIL, 1993

VOL. 4, NO. 1

FREE

**EXPLOSIVE
EYE-WITNESS
REPORT!**

ASTONISHING BUT TRUE!

BILLY BRAGG EATS JOE HILL!



**And washes him down
with IMPORTED BEER!**

**BOSSICIDE: FASTEST
GROWING MURDER!**

**NEW WOB
SONG BOOK
ANNOUNCED!**

And washes him down with IMPORTED BEER!

BILLY BRAGG EATS JOE HILL!



By JEFF DITZ
Special to the Wage Slave

British folk singer Billy Bragg

ate the last remaining ashes of famous Wobbly anarchist Joe Hill and washed him down with a Heinekin beer! "There's nothin' like a little pinch o' Joe to get the ol' union juices flowin'," bragged Bragg.

Two former IWW GSTs presented the anti-capitalist crooner with a tiny amount of Joe, *the rebel spirit that never died™*, following a concert in Chicago. The pair – Joe eaters themselves – challenged Bragg to take the Ashes Test. He passed, popping a piece of peoples progressive pop posterity. Eyewitnesses report *the rebel spirit that never died™* has been entering many lately, unnamed government sources say its origin is extra-terrestrial.

This story of worker warblers took its tragic, myth-making, turn in 1914, when Joe Hill was framed for the murder of a Salt Lake City grocer. He was captured and sentenced to death. Cowardly capitalists had him killed in the prison yard of the Utah State Pen where his last words were "Ready, aim, fire."

After his murder by the state Hill's body was sent to Chicago, honoring his request that he not be caught dead in Utah. The body was cremated and over 30,000 wailing workers attended the funeral. The ashes were then mailed to IWW chapters throughout the world with instructions

to toss them to the winds.

At least one of the packets was seized by U.S. Postal authorities who considered Hill a dangerous subversive even while dead. Years later, the ever vigilant bosses at the Post Office turned the radical remains over to the FBI who kept Hill imprisoned for 27 years at its headquarters. In 1944 the FBI transported Hill to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. where he was kept in solitary confinement for another 44 years.

The post-mortum imprisonment of Joe was finally revealed when *Solidarity*, the magazine of the UAW (yoU Ain't Workin'), published an expose in 1988. Later that same year Wobbly songster Utah Phillips and fellow worker Fred Lee made a daring day-light raid on the National Archives liberating the hapless Hill.

During the following years, Hill's ashes were hauled to Wobbly branches on three continents. However, the question of proper disposal of the remains raged on. During the heated debate, *In These Times*, a reformist rag in Chicago, published suggestions of what to do with the dissident dust.

Among the hundreds of suggestions was one from the late Abbie Hoffman who told the union to distribute the ashes to today's Joe Hills, like British balladeer Bragg and Texas tunestress

Michelle Shocked. They were to be asked to consume the revolutionary remnants. The ashes would then live on forever after the contemporary crooners died and were themselves cremated and consumed.

Hoffman volunteered to eat the ashes in a letter to the *WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS*, not long before his own death. He would have been the first "new Joe" to be ashed and eaten. Such willingness to go first was admirable but he screwed up the practical details, dying before dining.

The *WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS* editorialized that Hill deserved a fate better than simple digestion (eat the rich instead, we said) suggesting that the ashes be kept in a Jim Beam bottle at IWW headquarters.

The determined former GSTs instead absconded with the residue of our most famous bard and offered it to the willing Billy. In honor of the late Hoffman, Bragg digested the corpus anarchi.

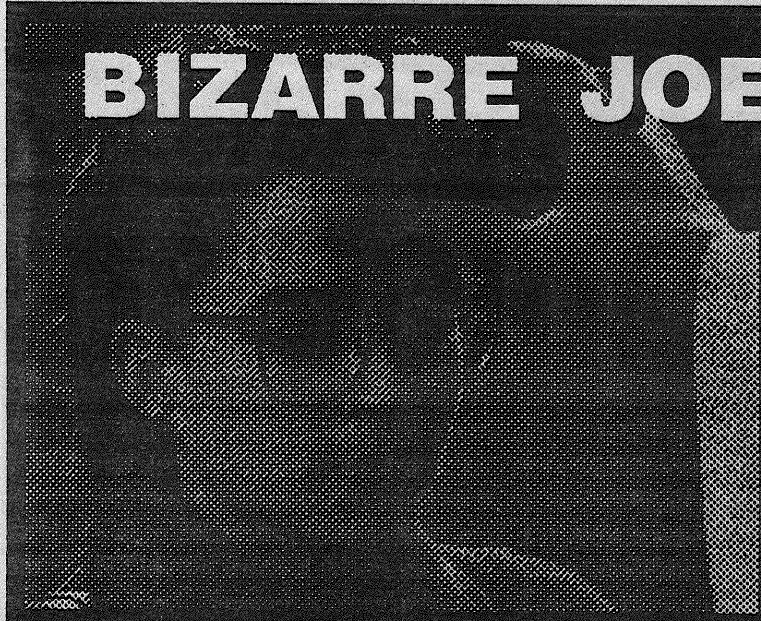
Moved by the new spirit of Wobbly dwelling within him, Bragg is now taking part in the *LITTLE RED SONGBOOK* project. This U.S. labor classic is now being updated and revised and will appear in a new edition later this year. It will be the largest and most international of the LRS's since the project began in 1909.

BIZARRE JOE HILL CULT FOUND

A WILD TRIBE OF JOE HILL FANATICS WAS FOUND RECENTLY BY ANTHROPOLOGISTS!

According to their baffling report, the scientists found the Hill cult celebrating a bizarre holiday called Anarchist Ash Wednesday. The holy day was created when a fundamentalist sect of Wobblies heard of the discovery of Joe Hill's ashes. The ash cult decided to honor the remains of the proletarian prophet by rubbing Him on their foreheads.

Anarchist Ash Wednesday is said to mark the beginning of Don't Mourn, Organize, a period of prayer and reflection for Hillists. The ashes, a symbol of worker immortality, came from the cremated Wobbly warbler.



MURDERS\$ INC

SINISTER SYNDICATE SLAYS WAGE SLAVES

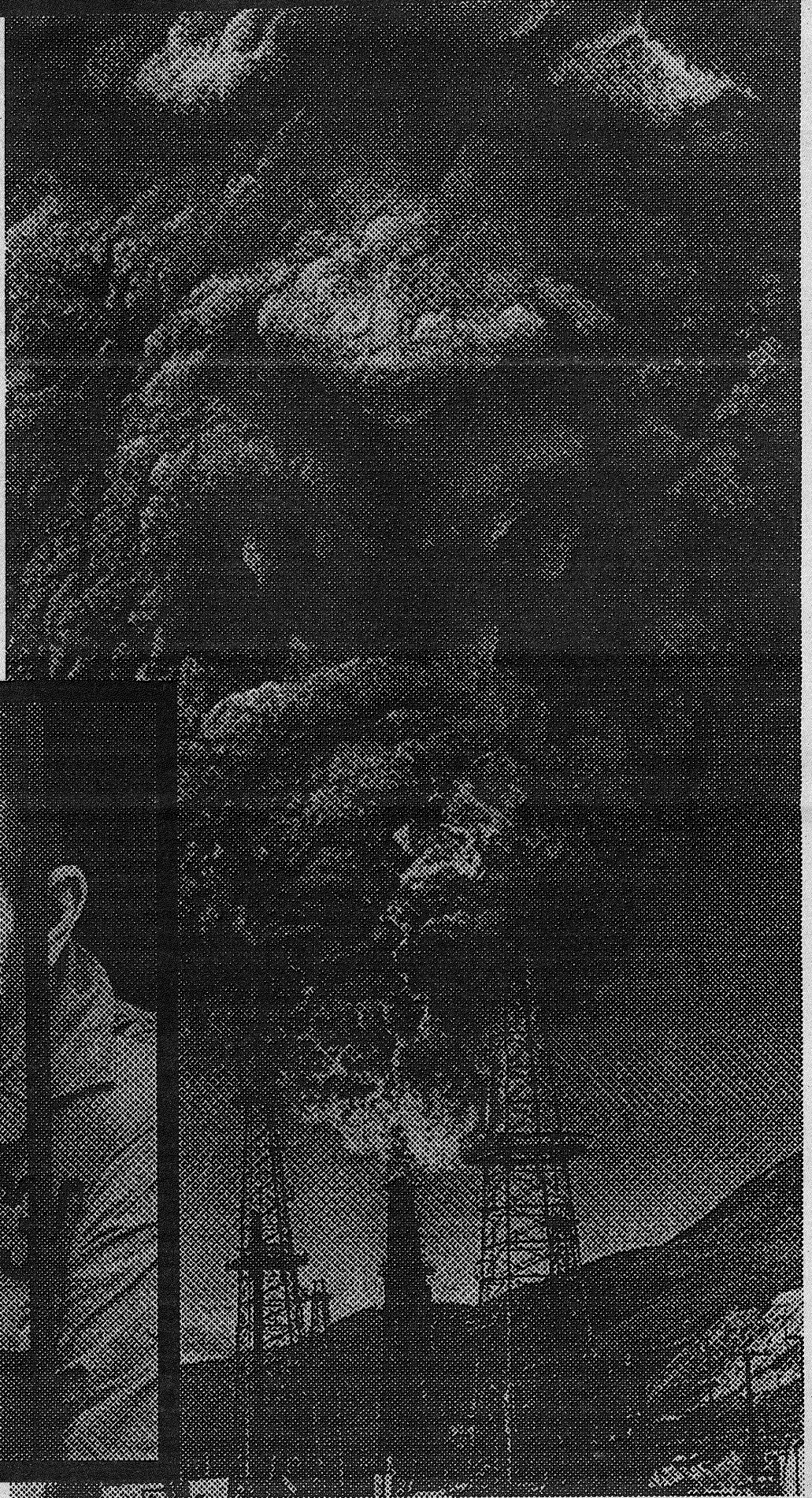
A VIOLENT AND HOMICIDAL MENACE IS TERRORIZING AMERICAN WORKPLACES. Each year more than 10,000 wage slaves are wasted by a loose-knit capitalist criminal alliance whose tentacles extend into every workshop in the USA.

The murderous maniacs are so efficient that they kill more than one wage slave per hour, every day of the week, every week of the year. No worker can feel safe as long as these killers continue to roam our streets, offices and factories.

So many workers are being killed in the USA that authorities can't keep track. Most of the dead are machine operators, assemblers and laborers. The criminal corporatists take great pains to avoid killing any of their own.

Police have turned a blind eye to this murderous spree. Only one member of this criminal class has been sentenced to jail in the last year. This was the notorious owner of Imperial Foods, a North Carolina chicken processing plant that locked its workers up in a money mill of death. Twenty five wage slaves suffocated and burned to death in a grease fire.

Fewer than 300 criminal prosecutions have been brought against these killers in the last 50 years, and only a handful have gone to jail. In fact, the sinister syndicate is often rewarded with tax breaks and unregulated profits for its deadly deeds.



**Only one
of the
criminal
capitalists
has ever
been
captured!**



Workers fight back!

BOSSICIDE ON THE RISE

THE FASTEST GROWING TYPE OF MURDER IN THE USA is bossicide! After being the victims of brutal bosses for over five hundred years, workers are returning to the tried and true remedy of slaying their slavemasters.

According to national crime statistics, in

the last ten years more than 350 bosses have been killed by disgruntled workers. While on-the-job violence was virtually unheard of in the 1960's and '70's, it became frighteningly frequent in the '80's. Workplace conditions in the early 1990's promise no improvement.

Incidents of retaliation against ruthless postal service bosses are probably the most notorious. However, the "crime" of revolt has spread. More and more workers alienated by capitalism and pulverized by profit, are driven over the edge to violence.

left side

The old Fellow Workers used to be say that if you couldn't find a job in windy Chicago, you wouldn't find a job anywhere. That's why Chicago has long been a wintering place for many in the itinerant workforce and that is how Chicago was for many years the location of our General Headquarters, aside from being centrally located on this continent. Many things can change dramatically in the span of a couple of generations and not always for the better. So if you're broke in Chicago, you may just as well be broke in God's Country (where only God can afford to live). It's bad enough being hungry but why freeze at the same time?

Our good mayor whose dynasty has witnessed the exodus of employment opportunities to climes that are heavenly bereft of such anathemas as environmental restrictions and unionization, has been a bit concerned about the economy of this fair city, and he has been proposing various ways of bolstering up same. One of his bright ideas is the building of a gaming casino, which has brought about not a small amount of opposition from various quarters who are concerned about any further proliferation of organized crime syndicates besides being well aware that those who would constitute the largest number of victims would be those who can least afford it.

Guy Senese, a professor from Northern Illinois University penned this wise and pithy commentary: "As an educator, I think every day about how costly and difficult it is to make people smart.... Fortunately with casino gambling coming I won't have to worry any more. It can now be more cost effective to make them stupid. Right now, the study of mathematics includes statistics and probability. Scrap it. To fatten casino coffers we've got to develop citizens who can't understand the odds of winning over the short, much less the long run. They've got to be kids who'll grow up to bite when the stickman says 'try those hardways, pardner!' citizens who'll draw to a hard 17, who'll sit for hours at the impossibility that's Keno, or get carpal tunnel syndrome bucking the odds at the one armed bandits."

It was my hobo Father who said it takes a lack of mentality to go into a gambling den, the most important being the knowledge that the law of averages are always on the side of the house. There was one dude that used to belong to the same construction worker's local that I belonged to who had come back from a sojourn among the casinos of Nevada. He was the kind who would partake of a little social gambling at the union hall "for sport" but always used his back and muscle if he was really interested in making any cash. He told me of one type of character seen hanging around by the "one armed bandits." They were easily identifiable standing on the sidelines with their little note books, carefully keeping tabs on each one-armed bandit within their eyeshot. The would spend a day or night keeping tabs on which intervals each machine would jackpot as the machines are daily readjusted. When they would see a discouraged customer walk away from a machine that according to their calculations was ready to pop, they would step up and feed the machine until they were rewarded for their long hours of vigilance.

I asked my fellow construction stiff what the casino operators did about those guys because, being casino operators, they surely must have been hip to them. He assured me that the operators didn't do a damn thing as the machines are geared to "jackpot" every so often and since the pot is only a small percentage of the take, it makes no difference who gets the pot. The basic urge behind gambling is the hope of getting rich quick and most gamblers are not going to avail themselves of the patience to do things in a logical manner.

I remarked that standing around keeping tabs on machines for upwards of 8 hours at a time was too much like work. My friend heartily agreed with me saying that being a construction stiff was a Hell of a lot less strenuous.

One thing we have to realize about those of our fellow workers who are taken in by the gambling sharks is that they are the same ones who will believe the boss when he tells them that they are going to have to accept lower wages and less benefits in order to keep their jobsite on the home turf. We are told about Santa Claus in our infant years so we will be conditioned to swallow bigger whoppers when we reach the years when we become producers for the parasite class.

Indeed, times are ripe for building casinos. The economic situation becomes increasingly more desperate for the larger segment of the population and the ones who are going to feed the coffers of the casinos will be those who can least afford to.

If our duly elected officials were truly interested in the economy of their particular constituencies, they would have done something about the flight of jobs to other parts and they would have encouraged the various labor organizations to exhort their rank and files toward a little direct action to see to it that only the owners of the job sites would emigrate if they wished to, but that they would be sure to leave their factories and plants behind for the workers to keep on operating.

It should not take any great cogitating to figure out whose economy our duly elected officials are concerned about. It sure as hell isn't the economy of us working stiff's. Never mind all this jive about the increase in tourism that casinos can bring. After having squandered the family budget, perhaps we are to stand in front of the casinos and shout to the occasional tourist, "Hey meestair, do you wanna sleep with my seestair?"

Don't look to the politicians to improve the economy. You should damn well know which class they are pimping for.

- C. C. Redcloud

Be a Wobbly - Join the IWW

Real Democracy! All policy decisions are made by referendum. The IWW has one paid officer, the General Secretary-Treasurer (GST), who is paid the same wage as IWW office workers. The 7-member General Executive Board (GEB) is elected annually by the entire membership. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum. IWW workplaces & branches make their own decisions about bargaining and strategy.

Low Dues! Monthly income under \$800: Dues = \$3. Income \$800-1700: Dues: \$9. Income over \$1700 = \$12.00. Initiation fee: Same as one month's dues. A low income person can join for as little as \$6.00.

To Join: Mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

I affirm that I am a worker and that I am not an employer.
I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name _____ Occupation _____

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New Wob Songbook Thumbs Nose at MTV!

The Little Red Songbook, a U.S. Labor classic since 1909, is now being updated and will appear in a new edition later this year. With twice as many songs, it will be the largest and most international of all Little Red Songbooks with songs from England, Ireland, Spain, Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Contributors include Billy Bragg, Sweet Honey in the Rock (Bernice Reagon), Phil Ochs, Woody Guthrie, Anne Feeney, Tom Juravich, Ewan MacColl, Julie McCall, Leon Rosselson and Workers Lives/Workers Stories along with classic favorites like "I Got My Mojo Workin' fo' Minimum Wage" by Lane "Blind Mutton" Kirkland.

It will have a cool cover and take longer to make than the pyramids. To get on the mailing list of pre-publication information write - IWW SONGBOOK, 1476 W. Irving Park, Chicago, IL 60613.

THE LITTLE RED SONG BOOK



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The Starvation Army

Village Voice ("God Is My Landlord," Feb. 9) reports the Starvation Army owns \$50 million real estate in New York City alone, earns \$4 million a year from investments and \$20 million in government contracts. Under the guise of charity, the Starvation Army pays workers as low as \$5 a week. One homeless man who worked collecting donations and sorting clothes to be sold in thrift stores, got \$7 a week for 3 months' full-time work (plus room & board). The Starvation Army calls it "rehabilitation," but of course the "beneficiaries" never save enough to move out and get a paying job.

When the Labor Dept. threatened to order the Starvation Army to pay minimum wage, the Army filed suit claiming encroachment on religious freedoms.

The Army treats tenants no better than workers. Two dozen elderly women living in the Anthony Residence are being evicted though their rent is fully paid because the Army decided it could do better housing younger, employed members of our class. These retired workers pay \$752 a month for tiny rooms (plus 2 sparse meals--with money from the state), and have no place else to go.

The Starvation Army is evicting 15 working women from its Ten Eyck-Troughton residence for inability to pay rising rents--\$600 a month for tiny rooms, no bath. Residents have sued, arguing the Army is bound by city rent laws and should not be exempt from real estate taxes if it is going to evict women who fall behind on rent. "God has laid this upon me and I must obey," explained the building manager in a form letter.

The Army does no better for mentally ill men the state of New York pays it \$2 million a year to take care of. The 300-room Booth House features urine-soaked cots, piles of feces in halls and rooms, mice and roaches. As few as 2 workers staff the facility at times.

"We got lice here, we got bugs," says a young man who lives at Booth House. "I pay \$770 a month for a room with no closet and a wrought iron bed, and food like in a nursing home. I want to know, where does the money go?"

*The starvation army they play,
They sing and they clap and they pray,
Till they get all your coin on the drum;
Then they tell you when you're on the bum:*

*You will eat, by and by,
In that glorious land above the sky;
Work and pray, live on hay --
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.*
Its still a lie. -- X331117

IWW Preamble - The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth. We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers. **These conditions can be changed** and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all. **Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."** It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Self-Management Series

The International Institute for Self Management invites you to attend a series of free public discussions, as part of their conference at Long Island University June 5-12, 1993.

June 7: 2-4 p.m. "What is Self-Management?"

June 7: 8-10 p.m. "The Mondragon Cooperatives"

June 8: 8-10 p.m. "Seikatsu Cooperative Movement in Japan"

June 9: 8-10 p.m. "Cooperatives in the New York Area"

Location: CW Post Center of Long Island U. in Brookdale, NY. Info: Dept. of Philosophy (516)299-2341, or GEO at (203)389-6194.

Direct Action Manual

The San Francisco Bay Area Web Collective is initiating a continental effort to write and produce a manual for direct action and street protest geared to the conditions of the 1990s. Contact: The Web Collective, PO Box 40890, San Francisco CA 94110.

The Pleasurable Revolution

The Book of Pleasures by Raoul Vaneigem. Pending Press, London.

Warning: this book will squeeze your adrenal glands. It is the very personal statement of a French revolutionary whose history can be found in the Situationist movement of the 1960s, a movement which carved its niche with paving stones dug from Parisian streets of May 1968. It is a psychological snapshot of one Raoul Vaneigem, circa 1979. *La Livre des Plaisirs* was translated into English by John Fullerton as *The Book of Pleasures* in 1983. Its latest incarnation can be purchased from Left Bank Books, 442 Brooklyn Ave. N.E., Seattle WA 98105. It's a fairly expensive 105 pages - \$12 in paperback - but considering its lack of availability in most libraries, most who want to read it have to either buy or steal it; an irony Vaneigem would appreciate.

"All pleasure is creative," he writes, "if it avoids exchange. Loving what pleases me, I have to build a space in life as little exposed as possible to pollution by business, or I will not find the strength to bring the old world down, and the fungus among us will rot my dreams. While the state is in disarray, strike hard at business and its friends."

Raoul Vaneigem sees the social relations and the consciousness which springs from them under the rule of capital as turning the real world upside down. Human desires, traits, labor, creativity, indeed human beings themselves, come increasingly to be viewed as attainable in exchange for money: sexiness through soap, joy in the purchase of brand-name alcohol, self-esteem by buying a certain car. This upside down world permeates human communication and consciousness in modern industrial societies. It stifles human self-awareness and blocks the road to social revolution, the road toward what M. Vaneigem describes as "universal self-management." It culminates today in the almost total commodification of human relations.

"There will be no proletarian emancipation unless we strike the shackles off pleasure," Vaneigem writes. In order to crack one's way out of this multifaceted shell, he proposes that the individual worker focus first on her/his need for pleasure, then use it as the engine of psychological emancipation. Duty, guilt, and sacrifice -- the traditional left, liberal and religious motivators -- tend to produce less than liberating results and according to Vaneigem, are counter-productive or

even reactionary. "Doing exactly what you feel like is pleasure's greatest weapon, connecting individual acts with collective practice; we all do it. If rejecting survival made the 1968 movement, taking hold of life will open the era of universal self-management."

Agree? Disagree? Curious? Pick up *The Book of Pleasures*. Follow M. Vaneigem's id though the psychological thicket of our collective super-egos. You may see yourself and your co-workers suspended within this sphere of self-induced repressions, reinforced by official authorities of modern ideology: religion, the State, the Economy, media pundits... Choose your poison. Raoul Vaneigem would have you choose pleasure.

Admittedly, this can be a dangerous path and Vaneigem deals with many of your objections as he argues, appeals and taunts. Sometimes a Freudian - Reichian map would seem helpful; but common sense and a tuned-in critical faculty is all you really need. M. Vaneigem can sound pompous at times. His pooh-poohing of organization in favor of spontaneous autonomy left me cold. While this notion may be appealing, it will never satisfy the desire of those who wish for more than a psychic liberation from the rule of capital. Generalized self-management can only be realized on a societal level as a set of social relations based on democratic practice. Individuals can only go so far by themselves. Cooperative commonwealth requires democratic mediation of individual differences and desires. This is sometimes hard work which is not always immediately pleasurable. C'est la vie, non M. Vaneigem?

I don't mean to throw cold water on *The Book of Pleasures* though. The insights are extremely useful, and continually stimulate and challenge the reader. I think Vaneigem's observations can help us as, "we are forming the structures of the new society within the shell of the old."

Reviewed by Mike Ballard

Note: If you're interested in reviewing books for the IW, please get in touch. You can suggest books, write up something you read recently which you want to share with your fellow workers, or let me know your interests and I'll see if we can send something your way. If you're from Florida and you haven't heard back its because I lost your return address--please try again. Jon Bekken, Box 762, Cortland NY 13045.

THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS:NRC HEARINGS

The NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) brought their Enhanced Rulemaking on Residual Radioactivity (ERORR) dog-and-pony show to San Francisco Feb. 23-24. Statutory responsibility for protecting health and safety from nuclear power plants rests with the NRC. Of 560 commercial nuclear power plants worldwide, 111 are in the US. More than half of US reactors must be decommissioned by 2010 costing \$400 million-\$3 billion each. If all reactors were decommissioned, a wall of radioactive material 3 feet wide, 10 ft. high would reach from Washington DC to New York City.

In the past Safe-Energy/Radwaste Activists have been burned at NRC and DOE (Department of Energy) hearings. However, they heeded the call when Evanston's Nuclear Energy Information Service warned them to pack the San Francisco hearings. The first of 7 NRC hearings was hosted in Chicago January 27-28; environmentalists saw firsthand how industry (nuclear power generators and utility companies) stacked the panel and audience. Three daily slots of 15 minutes each was provided for audience comments. Discussion was limited to a predetermined matrix of 4 primary goals: Risk Limits, Risk Goal, Best Effort and Return to Background. It was not the intent of the workshop process to develop consensus agreement, but only to provide opportunity to comment.

Before the NRC and their EPA

(Environmental Protection Agency) cohorts could begin, BAN WASTE activist Barbara George shouted: "Get real! This is not real public participation because the (radioactive waste) generators avoid studies showing radiation illness. Let's have another meeting in 8 weeks and invite radiation victims to be on the panel." Industry obviously wanted the hard and fast Risk Limit standard so they'd legally be able to walk away from BRC (Below Regulatory Concern) contamination levels. Downwinders and radiation victims would never receive compensation for cancers or health problems caused directly by the 25,900 tons of radioactive waste and also leaky waste dumps in Illinois and Kentucky. Industry's legal liability is \$10 million per dump, while cleaning up these leaks runs into hundreds of millions.

NRC has never permitted nuclear power critics to use a "Total Societal Cost" argument (including radiation induced cancers, total clean-up costs paid by rate-payers/taxpayers through the EPA -- instead of generators of nuclear waste and stockholders.) On the other hand, environmentalists championed Return to Background levels as the clean-up standard. Even a small dose of radiation can cause cancer, thus radiation must be kept out of the biosphere for tens of thousands of years. Clean-up on the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown has already cost \$1 billion, not including the cost of the

reactor itself (\$2 billion) nor 2,500+ lawsuits by residents suffering from cancer or thyroid damage. When Congress passed the Price-Anderson Act in 1957, utility company responsibility was limited to \$7 billion per accident.

Don Eichelberger of Abalone Alliance/Don't Waste California stated: "Don't open any more sites! Shut down the 111 reactors now. Move waste to above ground, monitored, retrievable storage like they do in Canada." Nuclear advocates have mounted a \$40 million campaign to promote nuclear power which paid off with the National Energy Policy Act of 1992 which provided one-step licensing of new reactors to be fast-tracked with NRC blessing. Everyone -- including Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, is happy. Right?

Wrong! According to a 1985 federal law, each state or compact must have a low-level waste dump online by Jan.'96. One by one, states have rejected this scenario as NIMBY (not in my back yard). California was spared in the final hours of the Bush administration through extreme wit and the DESERT TORTOISE lawsuit requesting critical habitat from the national ESA (Endangered Species Act.) The Frederick/Schneiders Energy Policy study of March 1992 was totally ignored by the feds. It graphically portrayed: 65% opposition to construction of new nuclear power plants; a 63% demand to

make existing power plants more efficient; an 81% disagreement on forced nuclear waste disposals when local community public health & environmental laws override federal standards (NIMBY); a 79% majority in favor retaining public safety hearings before, during and after nuclear power plants are built.

Industry was concerned with health & safety of workers during decommissioning -- not because they'd developed a conscience but likely because of labor union pressure eg. OCAW: Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers. The subject of risks/ hazards from worker accidents, transportation accidents (of waste to dumps) couldn't be ignored, but mention of health/safety effects on the general population was avoided like the plague.

NRC hearings are held in: Philadelphia April 13-14, Atlanta April 29-30 and Washington DC May 6-7. Public participation is strongly encouraged although industry types and nuclear physicians aren't the most fun schmoozers.

Phone Keystone Center (303)468-5822 for a packet; and send comments by May 28 to: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Secretary, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch Washington, DC 20555.

Together we can unrig this card game!

How To STOP Unemployment

by Harry Jonesburg

In automobiles, we recognize certain dysfunctional features. A "flat tire" is one example. We know it must be replaced. We know a car cannot drive well with a flat tire, and extended driving with a flat tire will cause damage to other parts of the automobile to the extent of making it unusable. If a neighbor tells us the answer to a flat tire is to replace the 4-cylinder engine with an 8-cylinder, we dismiss such ideas with a smile.

What if the economy has a flat tire, but those in charge of economy seek to fix it by installing a bigger and more powerful engine? The economy's flat tire is centered in the workplace. There are 10 million American workers unemployed and another 10 million barely making it with part-time or temporary work. Today about 100 million Americans are working. Therefore, the 10 million unemployed are 10% of working Americans.

What happens if the working Americans work 10% less hours for the same salary and benefits?

Instead of five 8-hour days, the 100 million employed would have to work something like four 9-hour days. Everyone will get a regular 3-day weekend. Who wouldn't like that? What worker and family would not benefit from such an arrangement? How much more volunteer work would become possible? The 10% of work given up by 100 million working Americans is just enough to create 10 million jobs for the 10 million who have no jobs. It is a quick, low-cost way of creating jobs for the unemployed and it provides a much needed respite and benefit to the 100 million hard working Americans.

The business world would challenge any change in the 40-hour work week. It would claim that the cost of bringing another 10 million on board is too much. But the 10 million additional workers are 10% of the 100 million currently working. Bringing the 10 million on board means a 10% increase in cost -- identical to giving the existing work force two 5% raises. Can any business claim that giving two 5% raises would be an unbearable cost? No!

Resources equal to two 5% raises can quickly bring about jobs for 10 million unemployed Americans and give every worker a day off while receiving salary and benefits as before. Why has such an alternative been ignored for so long? Because government and business can not see the flat tire of the economy.

But the business world would assert that, even though the cost is not so large, the challenge of scheduling and

In a time of immense economic and environmental challenges, the length of the work week remains a fixated relic of the past.

managing the new regime would be too hard. By so claiming, management would finally admit that unemployment is a sign of perennial mismanagement of society's resources.

Traditionally every corporation can speciously claim that it is only concerned with its corporate mission and nothing else. Yet in reality, the corporations have a collective responsibility for managing human energies and earthly resources.

Jobs can be quickly created at low cost. All it takes is to see the work week as an adjustable parameter of economy. By allowing the work week to adjust, more jobs and more work will quickly flow to the unemployed, and more free time and benefits will flow to the already employed.

There are other benefits to society, of allowing the work week to drop to 36, or even 32 hours. First the society would not have to "force" itself to produce unwanted products just to create jobs. Second, by adjusting the work week, there will be substantial lowering of "societal wastes."

Today's 100 million working Americans produce many goods and services, but also produce immense quantities of waste -- every year, 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide (50 tons per household), 45 million tons of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, and 200 million tons of solid trash (2 tons per household). The CO₂ is dumped into the atmosphere and has potential to severely disrupt weather patterns and the world's food supply. The sulphur and nitrogen dioxides come down as "acid rain" and ruin property and human lungs.

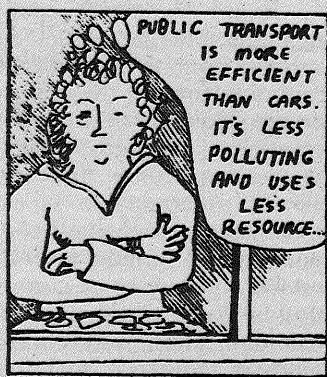
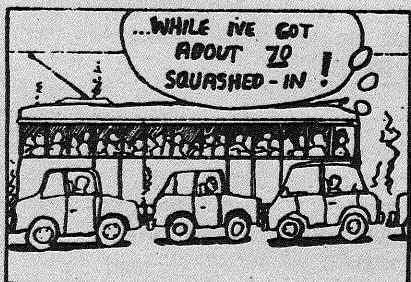
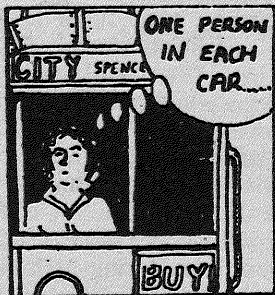
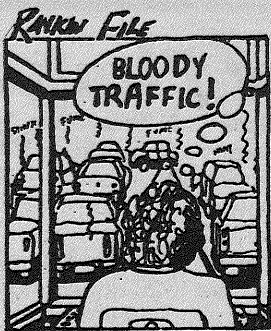
Any old fashioned scheme of building a bigger economic engine to create more jobs will give rise to forced, unwanted production and directly increase societal wastes. If we keep the 40-hour work week and try to invest more scarce resources, the new jobs, if created would merely add 10% to society's wastes.

Because of worker demands, the work week continually declined from mid-19th to the mid-20th century where it settled at the 40-hour standard. Then, somehow everyone lost sight of the role that the work week plays in the health of economy.

There is no doubt that a shorter work week can counter unemployment, increase hourly productivity, improve workers' morale, stimulate innovations and most importantly, make work a part of human life and not life itself.

A shorter work week would allow humans the time to become "citizens." They could spend the time actively participating in government, community life, and many things which every human desires but can't accomplish because their workplace allows no time. The shorter work week lessens the need to label humans "old." No one need be forced into "retirement." The length of the work week can readily be adjusted to fit the needs of society, as is the case with any other economic parameters such as interest rates, etc.

All evidence points to the obvious fact that a focus on the economic flat tire of the work week is the quickest, lowest cost, waste-free alternative to unemployment. The 40-hour week is a disruptive relic of the past. It is no longer valid for today's economy.



Transport Blues Diary

Dec.10 Transport Minister Brown attended a planned auction of Newport Workshops. Pickets prevented anything being taken off the premises. Brown tried to threaten workers with fines, being sued etc. He was advised by his minders to leave. Earlier in the month he tried to launch a children's book, *The Great Tram Race* but was shaken and rattled by protestors.

On the 11th Head Honcho Jeff Kennett showed up to Jolimont Railyards -- "wasted" prime city real estate, being turned into yuppie offices and apartments. After running the gauntlet of protestors "Kennoccio" caused a down-tools of all building workers on site -- outraged at cuts to Workcare for injured workers.

That weekend the bosses' media called for transport workers to be put back in their place. Jackboot Kennett obliged with threats for more sackings and to bring in Essential Services emergency action by the state. He was featured on TV with a fork at a barbecue, turning chicken wings stating, "I'll clip their wings -- this is a transport worker, ha-ha." Charming!

A Good Little Action Dec.11 protesters rode the train to Premier Kennett's electorate. We put up anti-cut signs in the train windows. Over 80% of the crowd were women, of all ages, some with kids in prams, others with wheelchairs, white sticks, etc. We carried a black coffin for the death of Equality as we turned onto Welfare Avenue (true it was called that). Cops sealed off the street and we had a variety of speakers, rail workers, single parents from Poverty Action Program, and even a brave schoolboy complete with cap and uniform stating Kennet was a heartless so-and-so etc.

We then had a march down leafy, nice streets, whose residents peeked out from behind the curtains. They no doubt asked the local police if they were onto the "Reds". We ended up with a picnic. A good little action though it would have been nice to get inside Kennet's office but we were outnumbered by cops and Right thinking shopkeepers. Presenters from the community radio 3CR unwaged women's show *Dustless Houses* were present and recorded the highlights for replay.

On the 14th a 24-hour strike of all public transport workers was held.

Community Support There are locally based anti-freeway extension, and support groups for railway lines. The Coalition to Defend Public Transport has brought together passengers, workers, and their families as we prepare for what could be, sooner or later, a lockout of all public transport workers. The Coalition was launched

publicly Dec.20 and the media was present to hear a wide spectrum of speakers. Guess what though, little or no mention was made in the monopolized media!

Local transport workers have held protests and marches where train routes are being shut down by the government or replaced by private bus lines who exclude disabled, cyclists, pram and shopping trolleys, surf-board riders, etc. Local coordination between passengers and workers is underway, eg. between community groups and station assistants.

An emergency phone tree and educational petitioning to get the news of closure around are the basis for campaign organization. Later direct action then has a wider basis of understanding and support.

Disabled The Disability Resource Center has a discrimination court case against the removal of tram conductors and station assistants. The Tramways Union has given some financial aid for this case. Militants of Accessible Transport Action Group (disabled people, their relatives and supporters) organised a blockade of the Public Transport Corp. Offices. The weight of their wheelchairs and the inaccessible design of Police stations and Courts and Prisons has put the thugs of the State, the police in a predicament of how to repress the protest.

Is That the Truth, or Did You Read It in the Herald Sun?

The Murdoch-owned media, especially the daily *Herald Sun* is a pro-Liberal propaganda sheet. The "higher brow" *Age*, owned by "Canadian" Conrad Black, did a series of public transport bashing articles, which led to the Union and supporters picketing the plant unless our side was printed with apology. It was called off by the Officials and now awaits a court case for a personally slandered tram driver, whose photograph was printed (under the headline If You Drink & Drive you're a Bloody Tram Driver!) claiming he was drinking beer while driving while in fact (witnesses forthcoming) it was ginger beer!

Various "provocations" have been inflicted (sacking apprentices, fare increases, keeping holiday time tables -- leading to traffic jams, pollution, overcrowding for passengers and mega-stress for workers). Yet the travelling public and transport unions have been quiet. Some educational leaflets about the cuts, and Depot-by-Depot stopwork meetings in the off-peak period, and we were told to await instruction for when to "go over the top" from our trenches.

--Melbourne IWW



Strike!

in the spirit of Eugene V. Debs, an American Beowulf, who was like both a sacred covenant rainbow for all the blue proletariat

STRIKE!

and a bolt of crimson lightning from a powerful electromagnetic storm and struck fiercely against the industrial money monsters who were mute, blind, stark and cold to all colors of tears and as brutal, bloodthirsty and beastly as the Anglo-Saxon monster Grendell!

Strike like a prairie grass fire by the light of the morning star at dawn, or

Strike like a heat wave by the light of the scorching sun at noon, or

Strike like a hurricane by the reflective light of the full moon at midnight, But strike, as passionately as you love to make love.

Strike

Strike

Strike!

-Tashunka Raven

DEAR NED LUDD & MOLLY MAGUIRE

direct action

BUS DRIVER LOUIE

It's a city owned bus utility, so it's heavily financed by the government. It's in a college town so drugs are considered part of the lifestyle. Marijuana use is a common thing among the people who live here.

A group of drivers and mechanics got concerned after we got federal orders that all bus utility workers employed by a company getting Urban Mass Transit Administration money would have to be drug tested. People were just saying, "This sucks! The government doesn't have any right to tell us what to do." We wanted to know why we had jeopardize our jobs for having a joint on the weekend.

First, someone xeroxed a brochure on how to flush you system out. So I started copying that and giving it out. Then a couple of people got information from the American Civil Liberties Union on what our rights were. And interestingly enough, our union, which wasn't a very active union, started getting involved.

When something really hits home, people start to get more involved. We started gathering information which spread around the shop. The level of interest increased as we got closer to the date the random tests were supposed to begin. Some people stopped using their drug of choice until they could figure out what was going on.

The weekend before the drug testing was to begin, we had an "After-Holidays Party." Somebody - nobody knows who it was, though someone in management thought they knew - brought in a pan of brownies laced with marijuana. Obviously, the purpose was so innocent people would test positive in the drug test, and the results would have to be thrown out.

Once people heard about it they crossed their fingers. The brownies became the hit of the party. The tension grew every time an unsuspecting dispatcher or supervisor ate one of the brownies.

Unfortunately, the general manager didn't eat any. Nobody realized what had happened until it was too late. All they knew was that the pan of brownies had been eaten. Management was completely flustered. They had absolutely no idea what to do.

A couple of weeks later a federal court ruling came down that knocked down the testing requirement because of some technicality. The Urban Mass Transit Administration had to rewrite the rule, so we have a year reprieve. In the meantime, we're trying to get new language in our contract. The federal government can tell you to have random drug testing but it can't mandate discipline. If we don't succeed, I know at next year's party, people are going to look at the brownies and ask themselves, "Do I want to eat these?"

The above story appears in *Sabotage in the American Workplace*, edited by Martin Sprouse, and published by Pressure Drop Press. This compilation of rule-breaking, sabotage and direct action in all kinds of workplace is available from the IWW. In fact (are you really surprised?), it has been our best seller since it was published last summer.

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Direct action on the shop floor is working class common sense. When the foreman screws over the workgroup the production slows down. When the assembly line gets speeded up - the proper response is more repairs and more down time. Sabotage, slow-downs, direct action, call it what you wish, but it goes on everywhere.

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there is power in a union

billy bragg

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WOMEN TO STRIKE

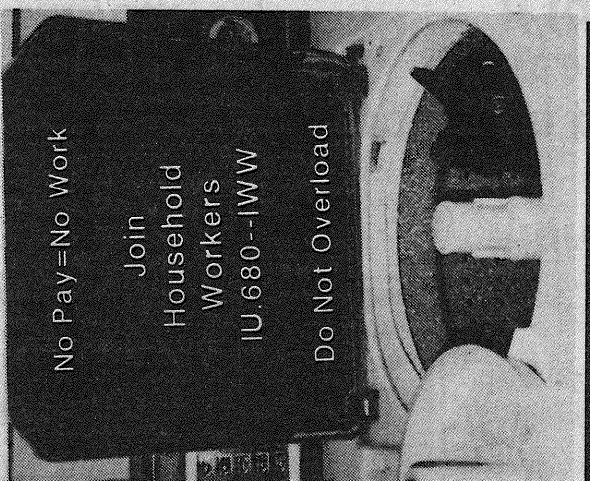
OCTOBER 14 - US National Women's Strike Day

Tired of waiting for equal pay, child care, and non-discriminatory promotions, women have decided to take action. Organizers are calling for women to not do their work, both on the job and in the home, for one day. It is hoped that the national strike will help women workers get more respect. In 1991, American women on average earned 70 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

The last women's strike in the US was Aug. 26, 1970 to bring attention to the value of women's work. In 1980 women of Iceland struck and shut down the country for 24 hours.

Industries such as retail, teaching, nursing, telecommunications, banking and tourism are expected to shut almost completely. Organizers warn that husbands will have no breakfast or bag lunch made for them, most phone messages and appointments will not be taken, most mail won't be opened, rooms won't be reserved, meetings will have to proceed without pens or coffee.

A human relations worker at Boulder CO, Nicky Marone is helping coordinate National Women's Strike plans for Thursday, October 14. For more information on National Women's Strike Day, call: (800) 262-6973.



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TRASHY JOURNALISM FOR THE WORKING CLASS

Union Issues of the '90s

by zimya' a. toms-trend

The 7th annual Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival, held near San Francisco Jan. 15-17, honors Martin Luther King Jr's birthday by utilizing his non-violent philosophy to promote labor unity and empower workers against abuse by multinational corporations and the military-industrial complex. Songs and oral her/histories portray labor struggles, educate workers and bring pride to the community of unionist workers. Multi-ethnic presentations included poetry & song swaps, workshops, per-formances and a benefit concert for workers in need.

Step-by-step, unionists are playing an active role in turning the tides through proposals (Dec'92 IW:OCAW jobs & environment), demonstrations (against NAFTA) and actions by workers themselves in defense of their livelihood.

I enjoyed the Working Women's Stories and Songs performed by Pat Wynne (union songwriter extraordinaire and former member of Freedom Song Network) and Carma Berglund doing oral herstories. As a woman, feminist and media-mongering WOB, it was refreshing to be educated as well as entertained by women about women's particular labor struggles. Reflection, sadness and humor in Pat's songs swept me from the early 20th to the dawn of the 21st century and kept my toes tapping for the next battles and victories!

Robert Allen, Afro-American writer gave 2 workshops: one an introduction to the film on the Port Chicago Disaster/Mutiny and the other a discussion from his book: THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY (Penguin/1987) portraying the WWII work stoppage by Afro-American sailors accused of mutiny. He shared stories of how he painstakingly located a handful of these vets (without the help of the Veterans

Administration, Thank you!) to tell them they'd finally been exonerated of war crimes. Most had lived with this shameful secret alone, not even telling their families for the past 50 years.

This WOB has an affinity for Port Chicago because she, other WOBS and hundreds of others, were arrested there in 1987. The Concord Naval Weapons Station as it's now called, is only a stone's throw from this year's Labor History Festival site. During the 1980s its claim to fame was as primary weapons shipping point to the contras of Nicaragua. It held the same distinction during the Gulf War, continues to be primary western USA weapons site, and does not deny or confirm its role in nuclear weapons storage, shipment and global sales.

My favorite workshop, **Military Conversion: Workers Bite the Bullet**, should have lasted 14 hours instead of one. Susan Strong (Center for Economic Conversion), Lee Schore (Center for Working Life) and Don Becker, worker at Sunnyvale Westinghouse plant, brought it all back home.

According to Strong, over 58% of defense workers are women and people of color working in a "culture of patriotism" as civilian employees to the military industry. The state of Washington first passed Conversion legislation followed by Texas under Governor Ann Richards.

Striving for a peacetime economy, Strong was a SANE/FREEZE activist in 1988. The Center for Economic Conversion received \$200,000 training assistance in 1990 and a federal grant of \$1.5 billion in 1992. CAL-START in so. California will begin to build parts for electric cars to offset layoffs at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft as "down-sizing" takes place. Strong predicts by 1996 a total of 700,000 new jobs in environmental technologies. The Center can be contacted at 222-C View St.

MountainView CA 94041 (415)968-8798

Since 1982 Lee Schore (AFT #535) has been a consultant and trainer in national conversion strategies because she believes that union workers hold the key to workplace conversion. In 1992 she contracted with OCAW and steel workers unions at Rocky Flats Facility in Colorado, which is due to permanently close in 1995. Office workers get their layoff notices when 2 military men with M-16s show up at their desk with black boxes, dump their desk contents into these boxes and briskly escort these employees out the door so they can't crash their computers in retaliation.

These workers (whose annual salary ranges from \$40,000- \$70,000) build nuclear triggers. Even if they're eventually fortunate enough to find lower paid non-defense positions, they consider themselves to be pariahs and know they'll never again have medical coverage. Although they show no symptoms, they have "body burdens" (nuclear radiation exposure) and they'll never again be able to obtain private or employee health insurance. Center for Working Life can be reached at 600 Grand Ave #305 Oakland, CA 94610 (510)893-7343.

Don Becker (IAM 565) works by day at Westinghouse making parts for Navy ships and Cruise missiles. He has attended anti-war demos in San

Francisco since 1987, and weathered many layoffs as the plant downsized most recently to 1500 employees. "Heard anything?" is the daily lingo for "Am I or you on the most current layoff list?" His union recognizes that layoffs must be "just" (based on seniority) but he believes there's only a little dignity as you go out the door. Becker advocates becoming a Labor Party Advocate because it represents independent political action in the 90s and is outside the Republicrat parties.

Ann Fagan Ginger of Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute - Box 673 Berkeley, CA 84701 (510) 848-0599, is a law professor and authority on employment, environment & nuclear issues, who said the 1978 Humphrey-Hawkins Bill is supposed to bring unemployment down to 3-4%; citizens should demand this Full Employment Act be enforced, because the unemployed are not interested in conversion but only in full employment.

All presenters consented that Seymour Melman's *Profits Without Production* (Knopf 1983) is still the best book on full employment. When someone in the audience asked about the relation between full employment and education, Ginger quipped: "Education does not create full employment, but just creates competition between us!"

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